



**Creating cultural  
change through  
student  
co-authorship of  
their learning  
environments**





# Presenters

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Natural Pod



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# Learning objectives

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1. Establish strong, actionable connections between a district wide strategic plan and an elementary classroom protocol
2. Experience space through the eyes of a student by shifting perspective, including active ideation and prototyping
3. Translate student feedback to be implemented in building design
4. Craft a clear personal call to action for how you can actively engage all students in future design opportunities



# The why

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Physical space can be a catalyst for change, it can communicate and foster the skills we value and seek to instill in our students.

Ownership and self appropriation contribute to an ideal future state for students.

This is built on the principle of critical thinking; of understanding how to make the world around them work with them, not against them.





# Where we started

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# Where we're headed

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## Where we're headed

“No more hallways. Every single square foot of this building has an educational value.”

Edward Collins  
CPS Director of Capital Projects





## Partnership for PBL: Students

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The Garden City students were given authentic challenges to reimagine different areas of their school and to rethink the kinds of furnishings they would love to see and use in their new school.













# Ideation

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## INSPIRE

Explain what inspired your design? Why did you choose the colors, shapes and ideas in your piece?



## INTENTIONS

Describe how your design could be used? How many different ways could you use your design inside and outside? Draw pictures if that is easier.

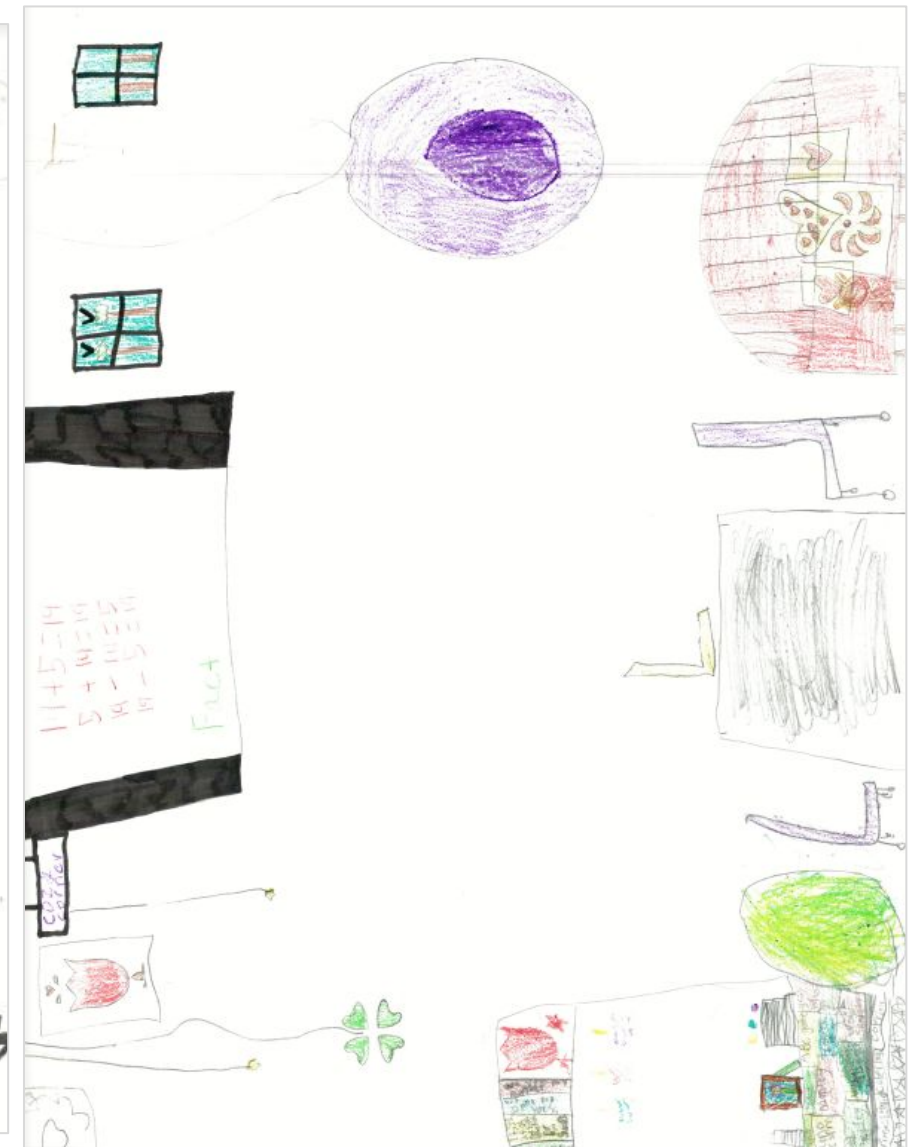
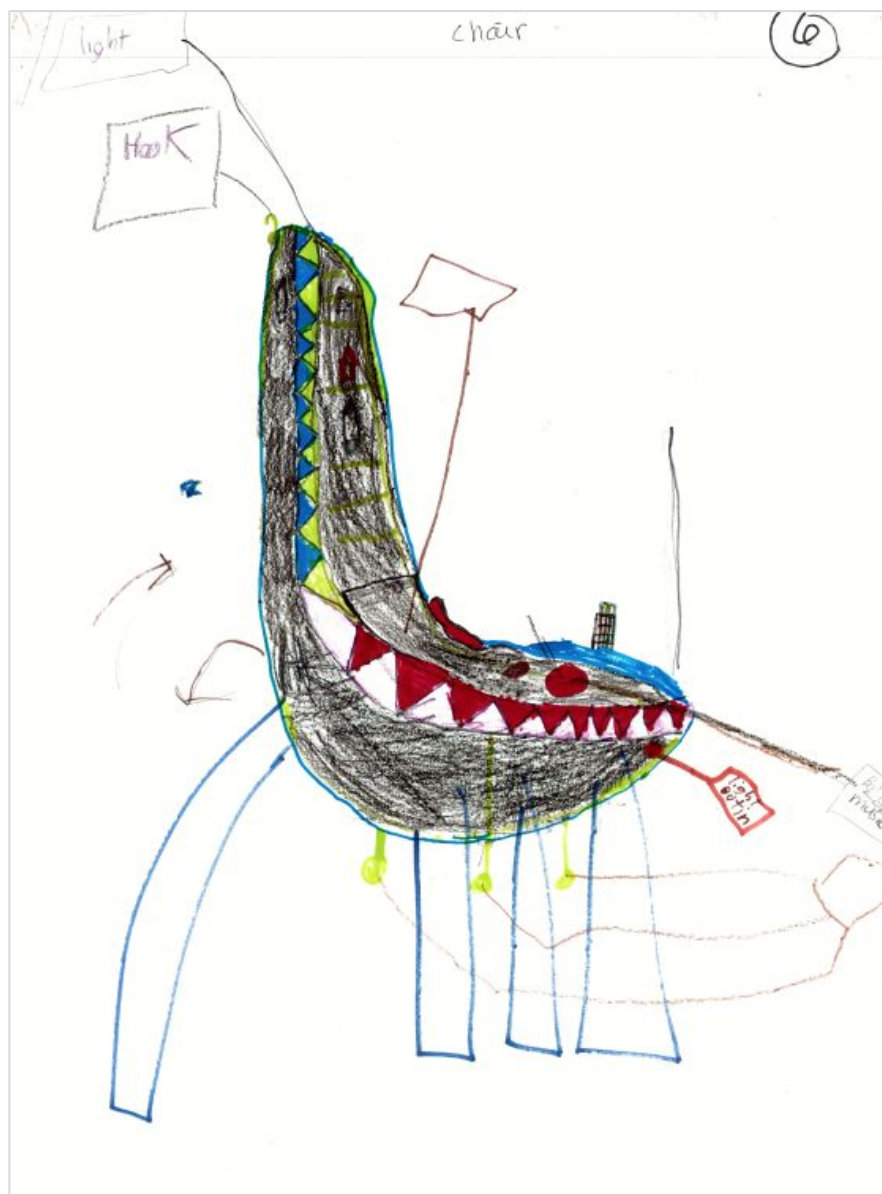


## CHALLENGES

What did you find hard or challenging about designing for your ideal learning environment?



# Presentation of concepts





# Presentation of concepts

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Student presentations to share their solo or group created “ideal learning space”

3rd grade group



# What we heard

## Inspiration

You found inspiration everywhere! From your breakfast foods, to your favorite places to visit or be at home.



## Ideas

- Birdhouse bookshelf
- Learning igloo
- Aquarium learning space
- Banana rocking chair
- Tent classroom
- Treehouse classroom
- Apple cubbies
- Table fort
- Banana bench
- Stump stool





# Simple sights and sounds

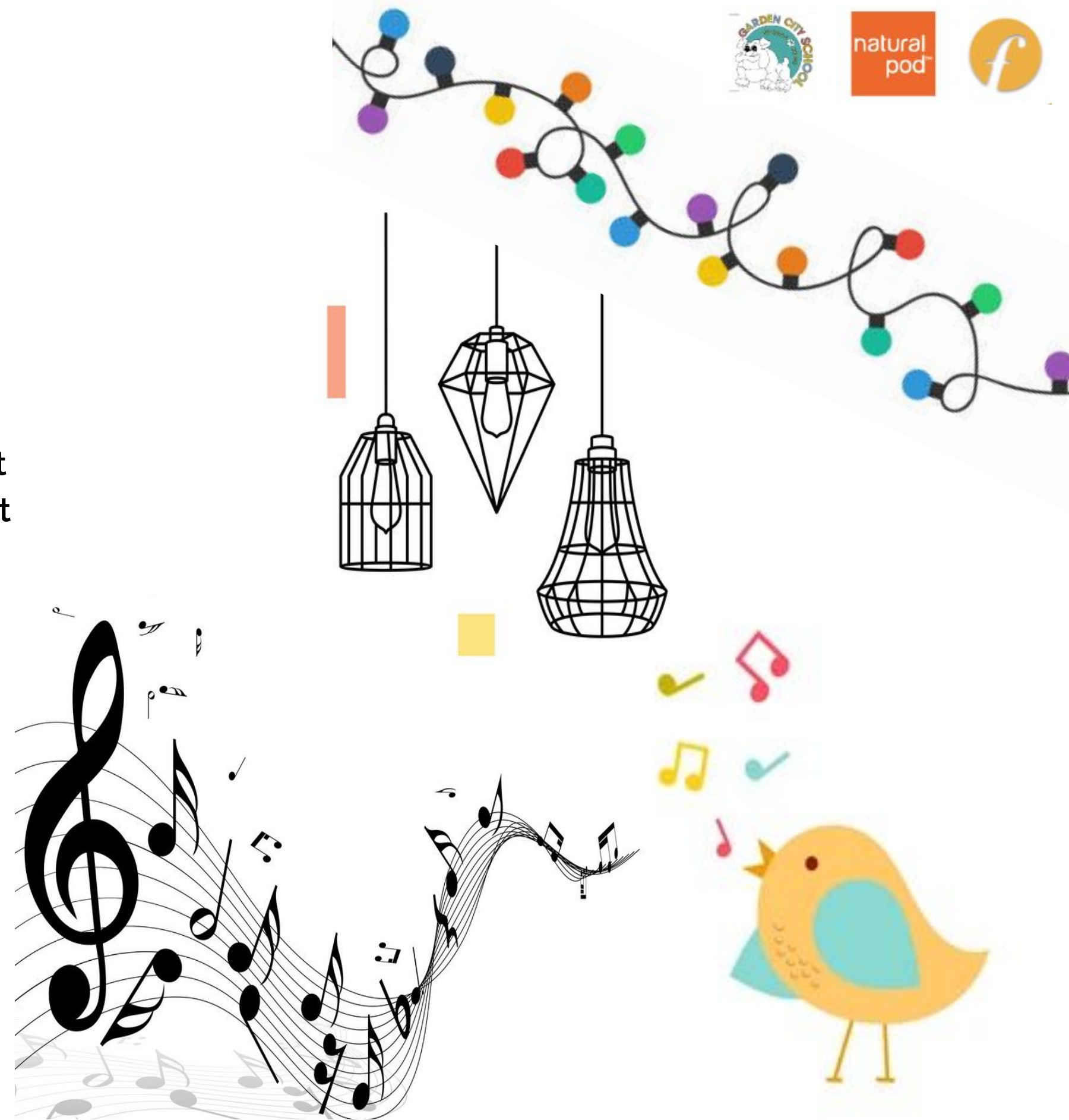
You want a variety of sights and sounds that support what you're working on, including quiet space of soft music for reading, bird noises, and dim and hanging lights so you can see your work.

## Sights

- Christmas lights
- Baby pineapple lights
- Hanging lights
- Skylights

## Sounds

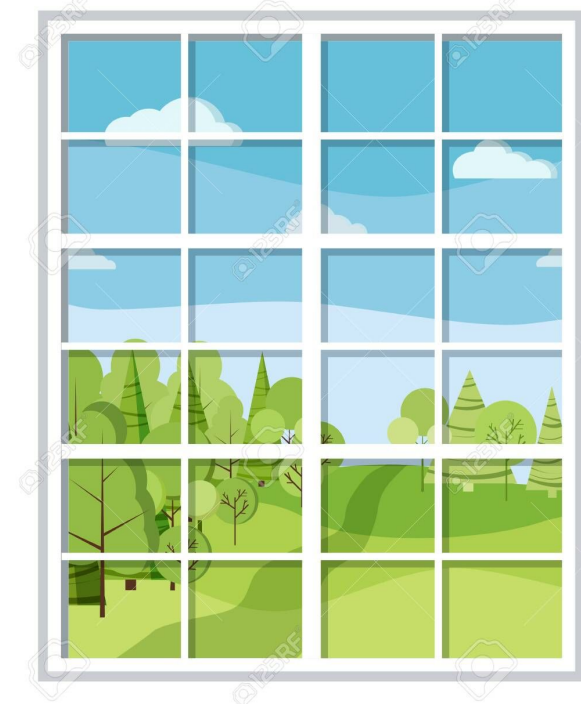
- Bird noises
- Music - calming (no rock and roll)
- Quiet reading zones



# Comfort indoors and out

You brought elements from home to your school to lounge while you read, stay warm while outside, or look at animals while you thought about your next big idea.

- Comfort
- Choice
- Views of nature / outside
- Movement - rocking
- Concentrated / quiet spaces
- Space to move (climbing and recess)
- Fireplace for warmth on a cool day, still could be outside
- Cool down space for kids having a difficult day





# Moments for movement

You found ways to bring movement to your ideal learning space, as well as how to get into our out of the space. Slides took you places, trees let you swing, and wheels encouraged you to wiggle.

- Things on wheels / casters
- Rockwall
- Slide to move to another space
- Slide to get books
- Slide to get to the ball pit then to quiet space
- Ladders
- Swing
- Hammock
- Spot for recess on a rainy or cold day

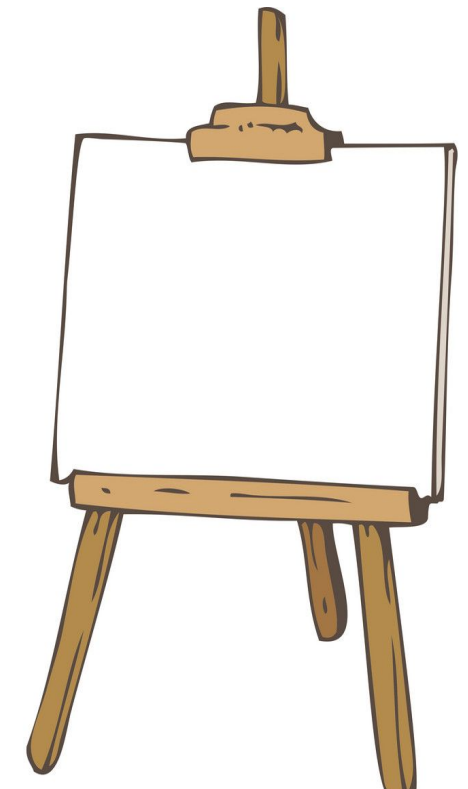




# Functional furniture

You reimagined furniture we have in our lives today, by combining your ideas with your inspiration to create new things and concepts.

- Bean bag chair
- Banana chair
- Waterfall chair
- Art station
- Caterpillar desk
- Computer table
- Computer shelf
- Ramp to the treehouse
- Apple bookshelf
- Apple cubbie





# Translating ideas to action

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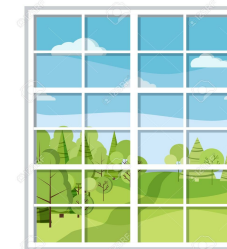
Choice / range of space



Movement



Comfort



Nature indoors



Multiple learning styles



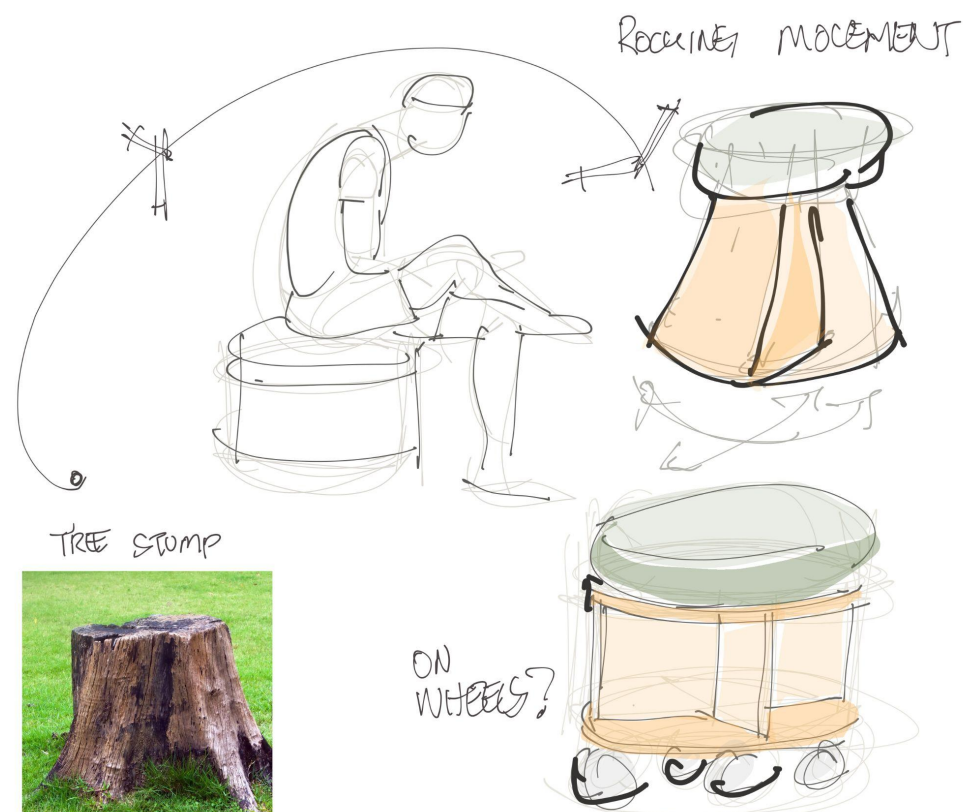
Outdoors



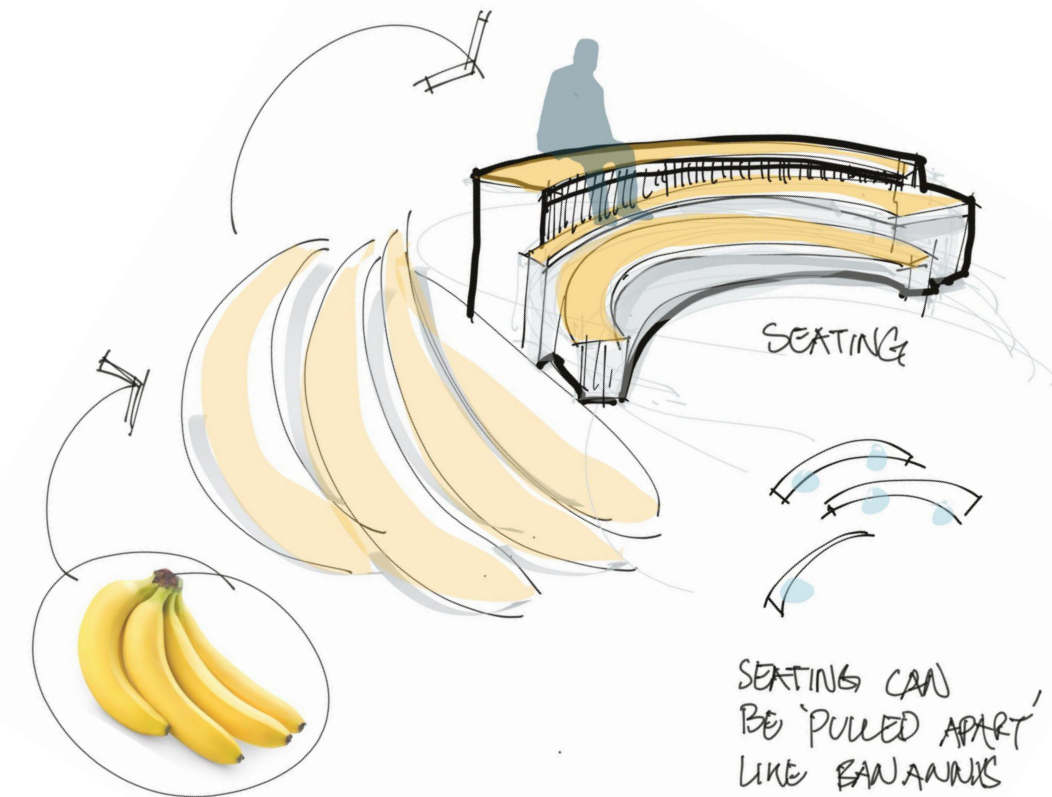
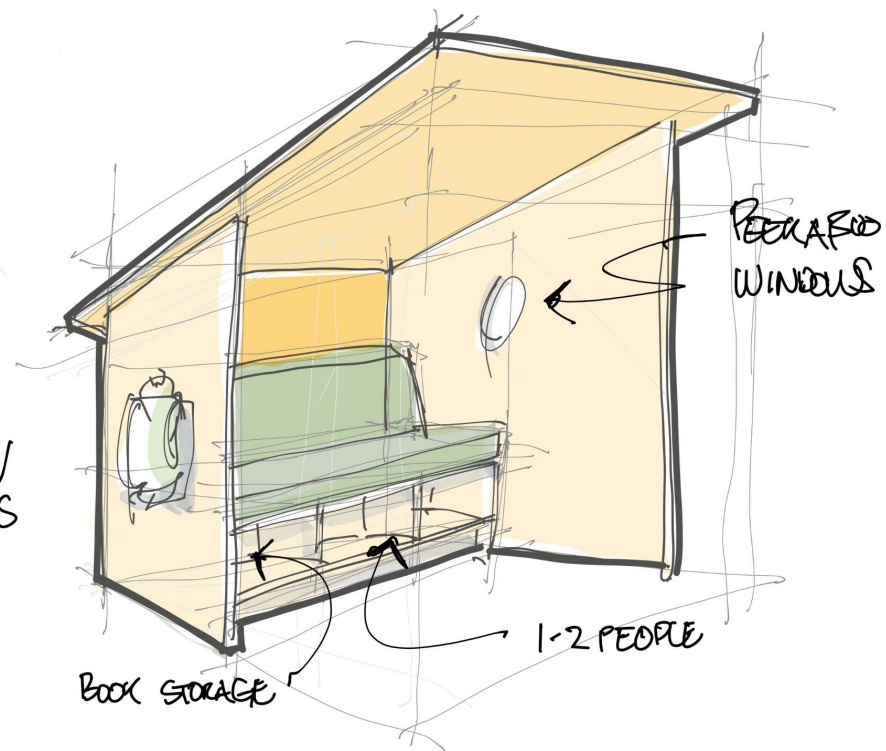
Color + neutrals



# Translating ideas to action



- CUSHIONS/
- PLANKS
- SOME
- PRUNING





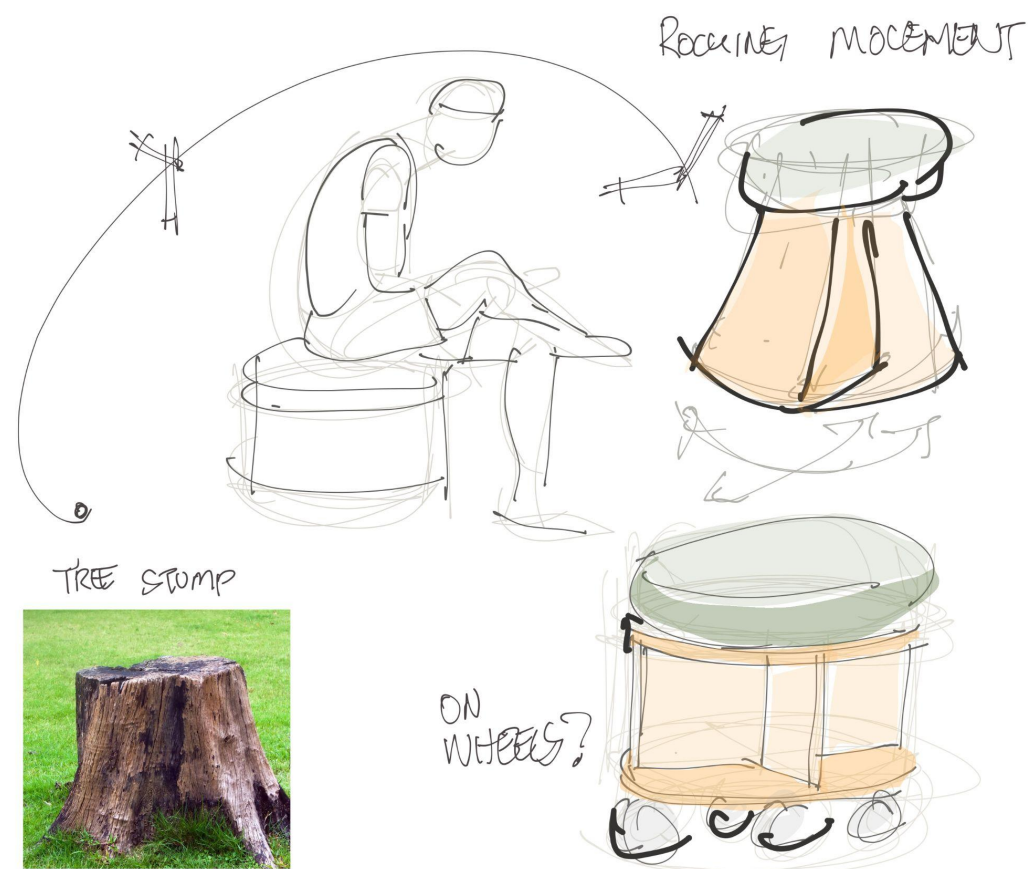
# Prototyping

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# Prototyping





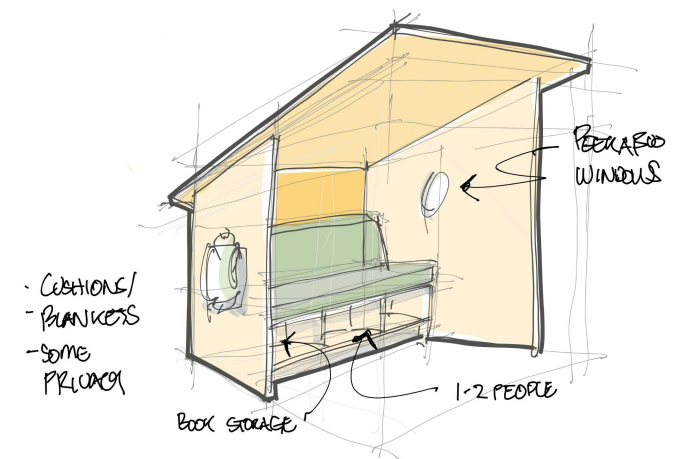


# Prototyping

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# Prototyping





# Applying student voice to building design

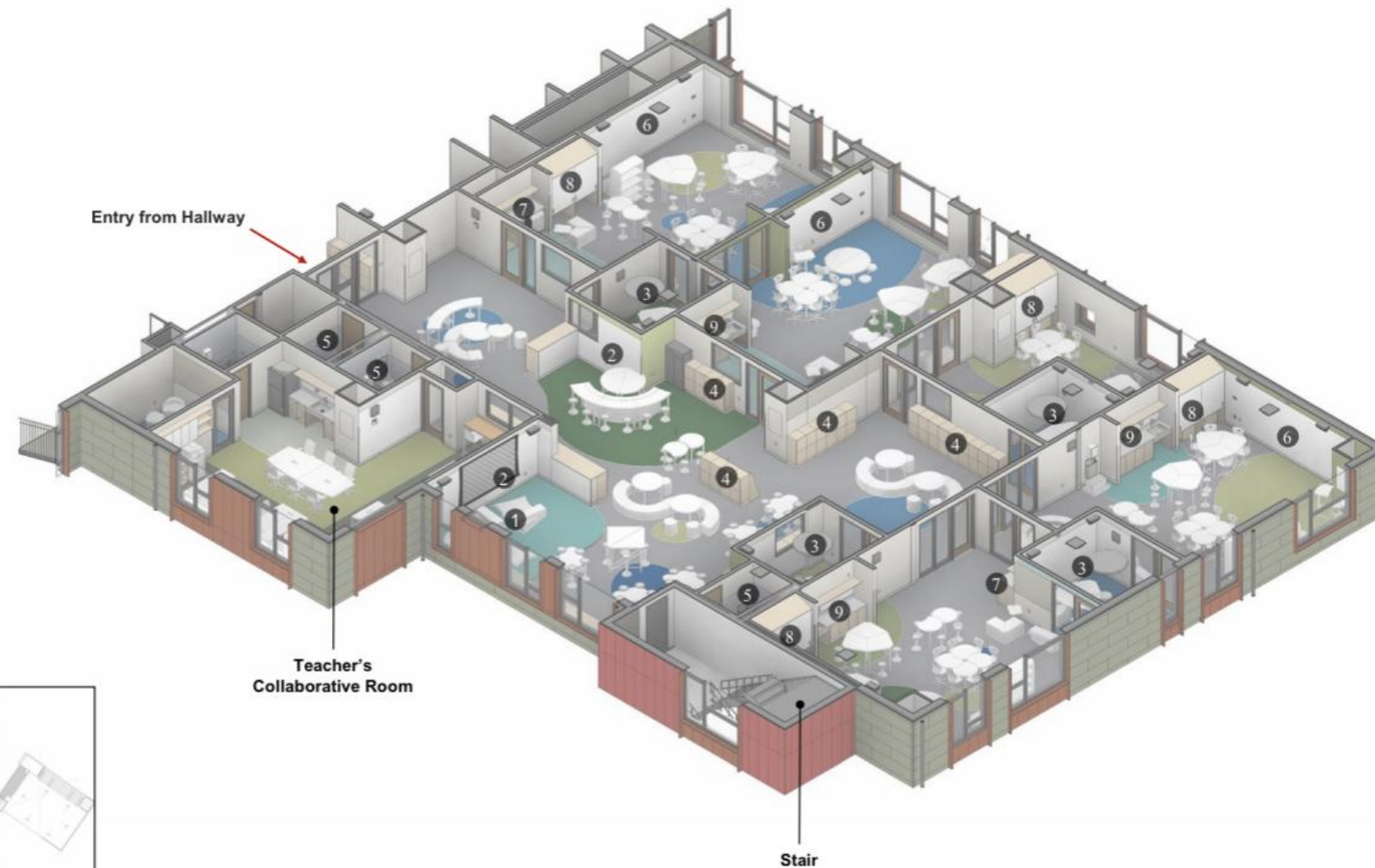
## Legend

### Learning Commons

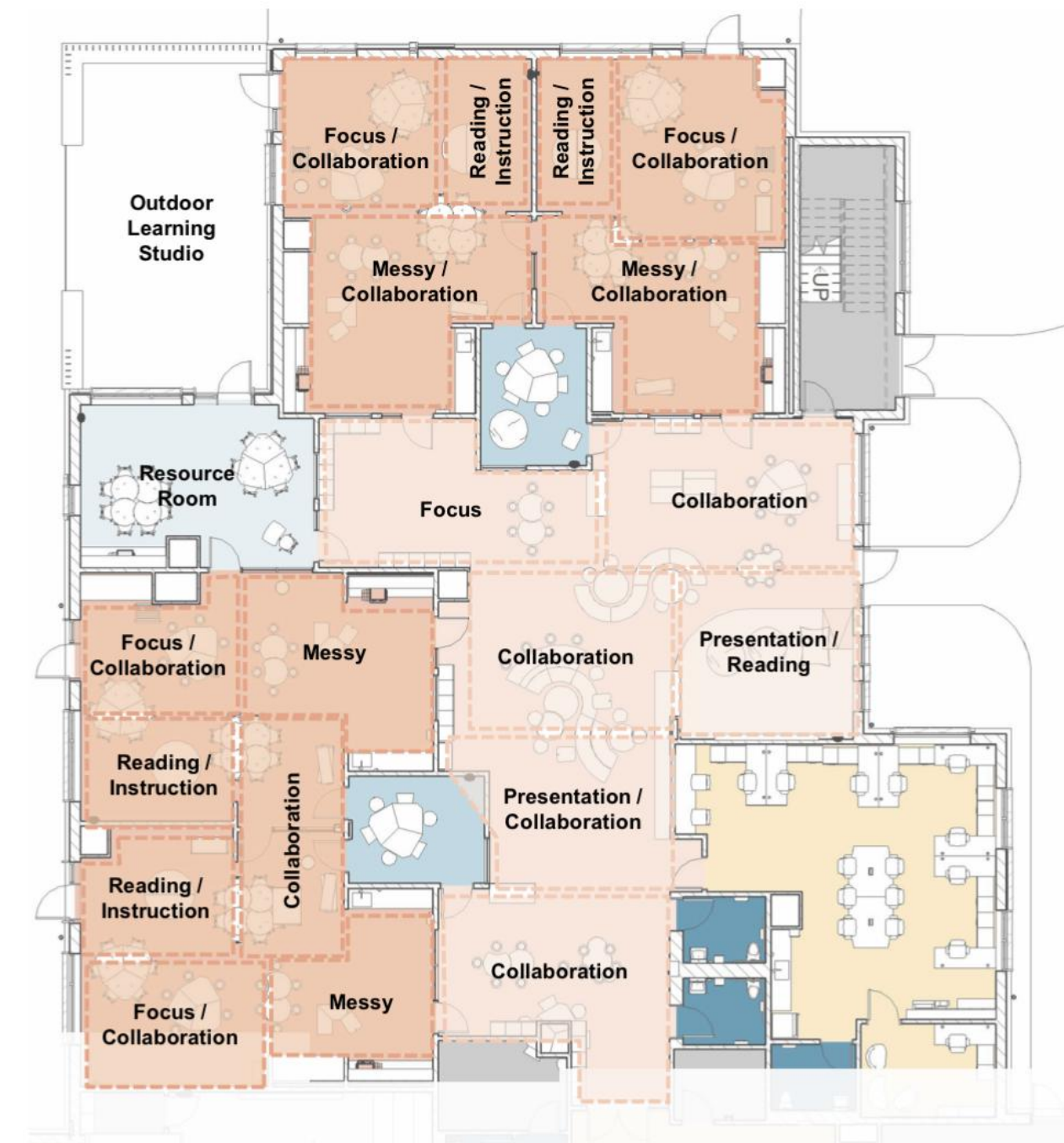
- ① Stage
- ② Presentation area
- ③ Small Group Room
- ④ Student cubbies
- ⑤ Student bathroom

### Learning Studio

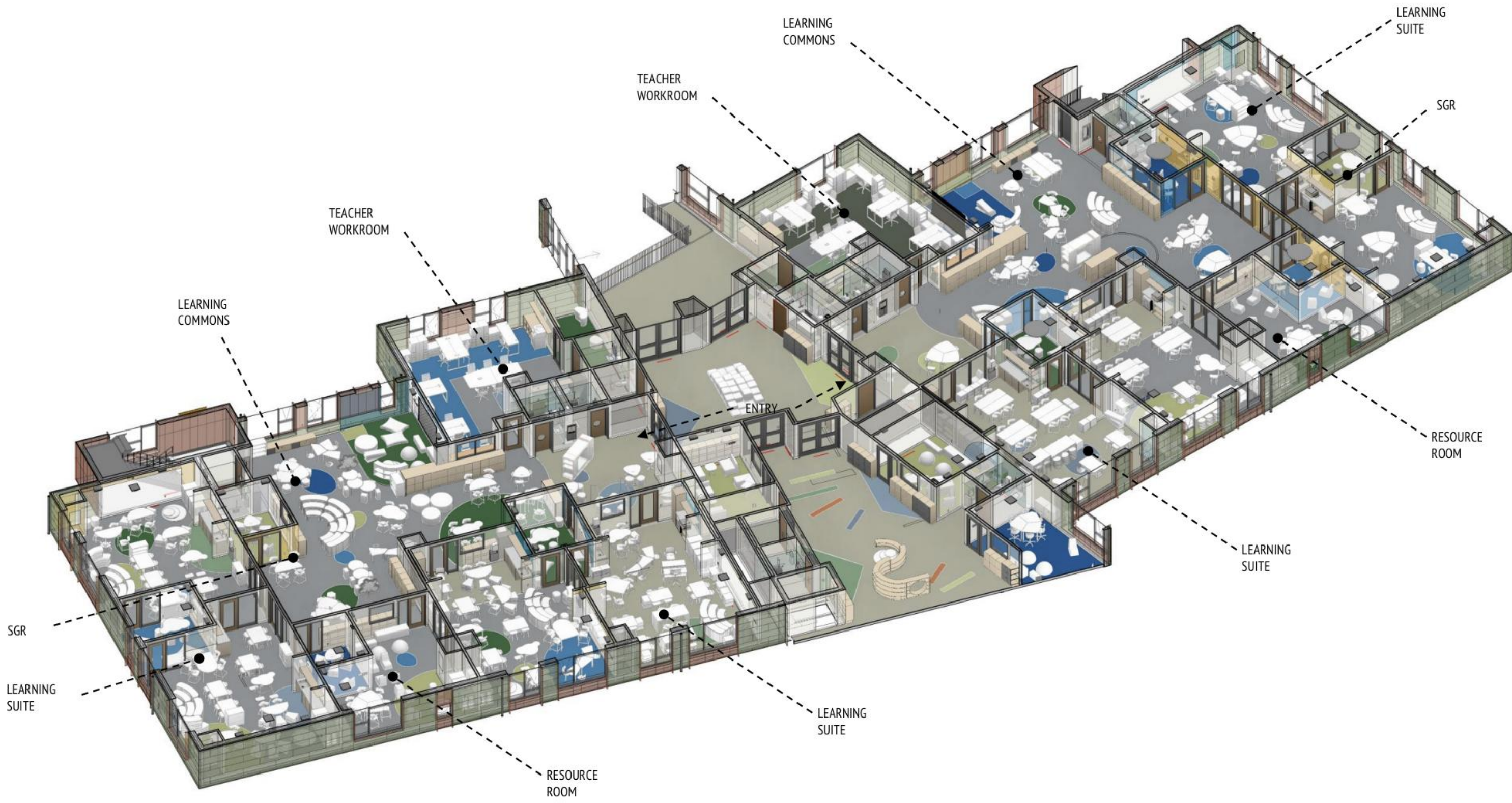
- ⑥ Presentation Wall
- ⑦ Print station
- ⑧ Tall storage
- ⑨ Sink cabinet



Garden City - Proposed Plan  
3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Learning Community











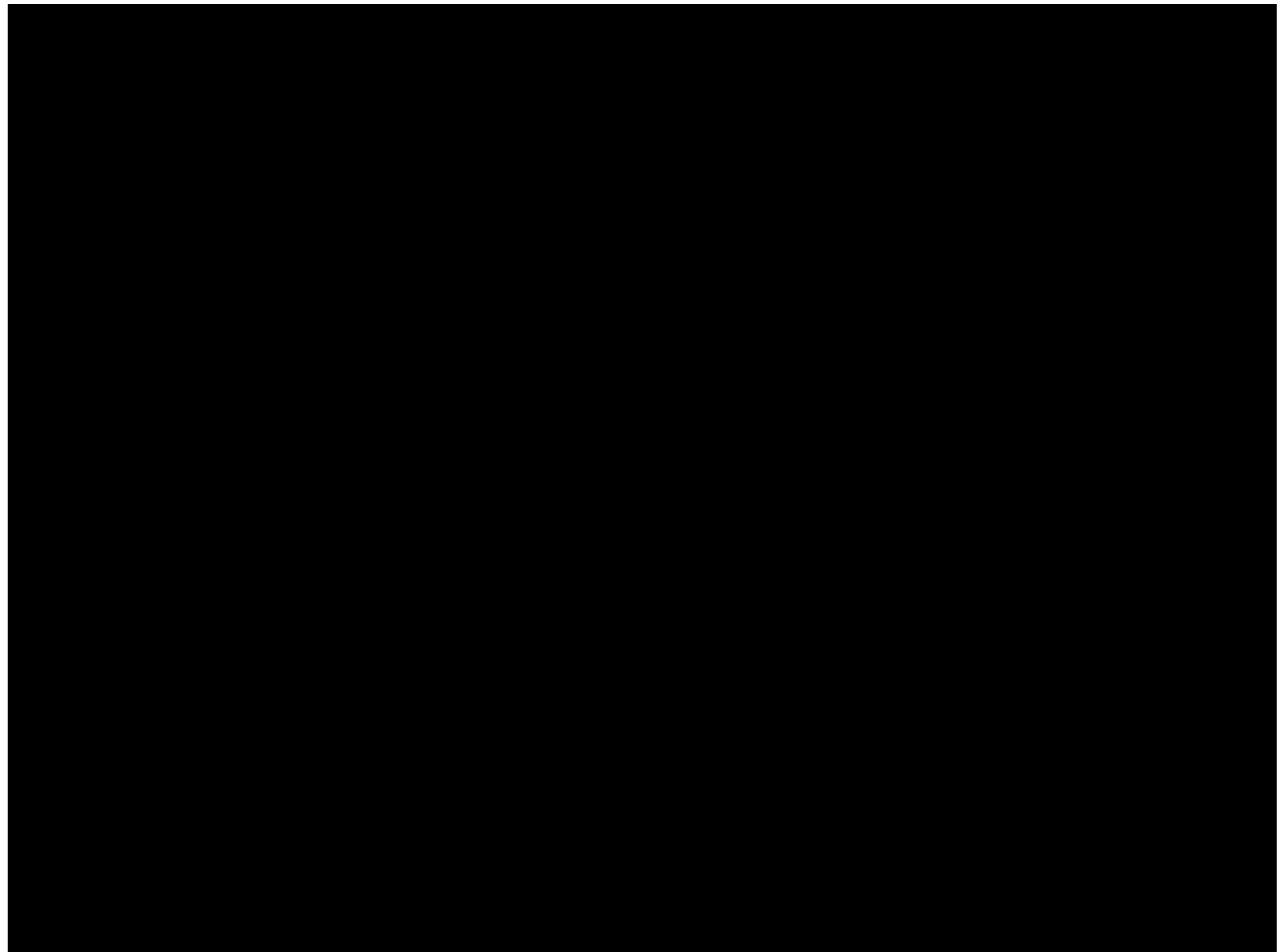




# Project summary

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Our aspiration is that this project and experience is an insightful story and model that propels cultural change in you, your school, and your community.







opening fall 2023



**the end**